

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 KABUL 09022 281028Z
ACTION PM-03

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NEA-07 EUR-08 ARA-10 SP-02
NSC-05 DODE-00 CIAE-00 INR-05 PRS-01 ACDA-10 /066 W
-----021470 281040Z /23

P R 280900Z DEC 77
FM AMEMBASSY KABUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5818
INFO USINT BAGHDAD
USINT HAVANA
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN PRIORITY
USCINCEUR
CINCPAC

S E C R E T KABUL 9022

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS, CU, AF, IR
SUBJECT: CUBAN ACTIVITY IN AFGHANISTAN

CINCPAC: FOR POLAD

USCINCEUR: POR POLAD

REF: THERAN 11374 (NOTAL)

1. THIS EMBASSY CONTINUES TO BELIEVE THAT THE SEPTEMBER 19-23
VISIT TO KABUL OF CUBAN DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER PELEGRIN
TORRAS WAS PRIMARILY IN CONNECTION WITH THE UPCOMING MINISTERIAL-
LEVEL MEETING NEXT MAY IN KABUL OF THE COORDINATING BUREAU
OF THE NONALIGNED GROUP. DURING A SUBSEQUENT MEETING WITH THE
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 KABUL 09022 281028Z

AMERICAN CHARGE D'AFFAIRES, A.I., ABDUL SAMAD GHAUS, AFGHANISTAN'S
THEN ACTING MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS, OBSERVED THAT THE
CUBAN VISIT WAS AN EFFORT BY THAT COUNTRY TO "ENHANCE" ITS
THIRD WORLD CREDENTIALS AND "INDEPENDENCE FROM THE SOVIET UNION"
(KABUL 7219).

2. ALTHOUGH IT IS CERTAINLY POSSIBLE THAT THE CUBANS MIGHT

HAVE UTILIZED THAT PARTICULAR OPPORTUNITY TO HAVE OFFERED SOME TYPE OF MILITARY TRAINING TO THE AFGHANS, WE DOUBT STRONGLY THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF AFGHANISTAN (GOA) WOULD SERIOUSLY ENTERTAIN SUCH A PROPOSAL AT THIS TIME. SUCH AN ASSOCIATION WITH NON-ISLAMIC CUBA WOULD PORTRAY AFGHANISTAN (WHICH, INCIDENTALLY, QUIETLY SYMPATHIZES WITH ITS BROTHER MUSLIMS IN SOMALIA IN THE CURRENT HORN OF AFRICA FRASCAS) AS DANGEROUSLY LINKED WITH A PROVED INTERNATIONAL TROUBLEMAKER. THIS WOULD CREATE SEVERE REGIONAL TENSIONS WITH IRAN AND PAKISTAN WHICH THE GOA WOULD NOT WANT TO CREATE AT A TIME WHEN IT IS ACTIVELY ENGAGED IN ATTEMPTING TO IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH TEHRAN AND ISLAMABAD. ADDITIONALLY, THE POLITICALLY SENSITIVE AFGHANS COULD BE EXPECTED TO REALIZE THAT SUCH A MOVE WOULD ALSO PRODUCE A SERIOUS BILATERAL IRRITANT WITH THE US AT A TIME WHEN KABUL IS TRYING TO ELICIT RENEWED EXPRESSIONS OF SUPPORT FROM WASHINGTON.

3. BECAUSE THE SOVIETS, WHO PLAY THEIR HAND IN AFGHANISTAN VERY CAREFULLY AND EXPERTLY, COULD BE EXPECTED TO ANTICIPATE THE PROBABLE AFGHAN AND REGIONAL REACTION OUTLINED ABOVE IN PARAGRAPH 2, WE BELIEVE IT WOULD BE UNLIKELY THAT MOSCOW WOULD AUTHORIZE THE CUBANS TO MOVE AT THIS TIME.

4. OUR AFGHAN MILITARY SOURCES DO NOT THUS FAR REVEAL ANY CUBAN CONTACTS WITH THE AFGHAN ARMED FORCES -- BUT WE WILL REMAIN ALERT TO THIS POSSIBILITY.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 KABUL 09022 281028Z

5. THIS EMBASSY DOES NOT HAVE A HIGH OPINION OF THE QUALITY OF IRANIAN INTELLIGENCE REPORTS ABOUT AFGHANISTAN (AN ANALYSIS WILL BE TRANSMITTED SEPARATELY THROUGH AN APPROPRIATE CHANNEL). WE UNDERSTAND, HOWEVER, THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF IRAN (GOI) TAKES THESE REPORTS SERIOUSLY -- AND WE WILL CONTINUE TO EVALUATE THEM THOROUGHLY WHENEVER THEY ARE RAISED BY THE GOI. WE SEE GREAT VALUE IN HAVING EMBASSY TEHRAN REGULARLY CONVEY A MORE BALANCED VIEWPOINT TO THE GOI.

6. FOR THE RECORD, DR. JOSE LOPEZ SANCHEZ, AMBASSADOR OF CUBA (RESIDENT AT NEW DELHI), HAPPENS TO BE IN KABUL NOW. HE MET WITH DR. ABDULLAH OMAR, AFGHAN MINISTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH, ON DECEMBER 25. ACCORDINGLY TO THE GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED "KABUL TIMES", THEY "DISCUSSED AND EXCHANGED VIEWS ON THE POSSIBILITY OF MEDICAL COOPERATION BETWEEN AFGHANISTAN AND CUBA".
ELIOT

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY ASSISTANCE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 28-Dec-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977KABUL09022
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770482-1296
Format: TEL
From: KABUL
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19771213/aaaaakas.tel
Line Count: 111
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 8c005efc-c188-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION PM
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 122399
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CUBAN ACTIVITY IN AFGHANISTAN CINCPAC: FOR POLAD USCINCEUR: POR POLAD
TAGS: MASS, CU, AF, IR
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/8c005efc-c188-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009